



DEPARTMENT OF STATE *WC NEDND*
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

October 21, 1977

To: The Secretary
From: D/HA - Patricia M. Derian *P*

Impending Request from Congressman Eilberg
for a Special Parole Action
for Soviet Refugees in Italy

We have been informed by staff members of the Sub-Committee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law that Chairman Eilberg will soon be writing to you recommending that you request the Attorney General to exercise his parole authority under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to admit 5,000 ex-USSR refugees into the United States during the next six months. The purpose of this memorandum is to alert you to Chairman Eilberg's proposal.

At the present time, there is a backlog of approximately 4,000 ex-USSR refugees in Italy. The current rate of influx exceeds 1,000 per month. The high majority of these refugees seek immigration to the United States and most of them are prima facie eligible for admission. About 75 percent are Soviet Jews who broke-off from their journey to Israel; the balance are Christians.

Owing to the limited availability of Conditional Entry numbers under Section 203(a)(7) of the INA, the current rate of processing for U.S. immigration is only 300-350 per month. In the meantime, the growing caseload in Italy is receiving care and maintenance assistance at considerable cost to the United States Refugee Program (USRP).

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This is a serious problem requiring special remedial action and representatives of the American Jewish Voluntary Agencies have recently approached Congressman Joshua Eilberg seeking special parole action for these refugees.

In the interest of eliminating a large backlog of refugees in an important asylum area, meeting our obligations in accordance with Basket III of the Helsinki Accords, reducing care and maintenance costs to USRP, and for the sake of the refugees involved, my office will strongly support Chairman Eilberg's proposal. Upon receipt of his letter, we will prepare an appropriate request to the Attorney General for your consideration.

cc: EUR/SOV - Mr. Willems

H - Mr. Krizek

White House - Mr. Eisenstadt

White House - Ms. Star

Drafted By: D/HA/ORM:JLCarlin:nd

10/21/77